FLORIDA CELEBRATES AMERICA

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL
1776-1976
FLORIDA

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CELEBRATE AMERICA

The celebration of our nation's 200th anniversary commemorates more than just the year 1776. It celebrates our whole national experience, 200 successful years of the great American experiment in democracy. Florida brings to this experience a unique chapter, for the timespan from St. Augustine and Pensacola to the Apollo moon flights is not two hundred, but more than four hundred years.

As Florida celebrates America, the activities will be as many and as varied as the people and communities which make up the Sunshine State. Some of the Bicentennial events will be festive and filled with fanfare, commanding everyone's attention. Others will be more subdued, yet with lasting benefits to our state and its citizens.

All the events and projects that make up our nation's Bicentennial celebration have one underlying goal: that through the Bicentennial commemoration Americans can strive to improve the quality of life in our country as we enter America's third century.

J. H. Williams

Lieutenant Governor
Chairman

For additional information about joining your local Bicentennial celebration write to the Bicentennial Commission of Florida, Post Office Box 10207, Tallahassee, Florida 32302 or telephone 904/488-1976.

This public document was promulgated at an annual cost of $1356.40 or $.0678 per copy to inform the public about Florida's commemoration of the American Revolution Bicentennial.

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Florida.

BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION OF FLORIDA.

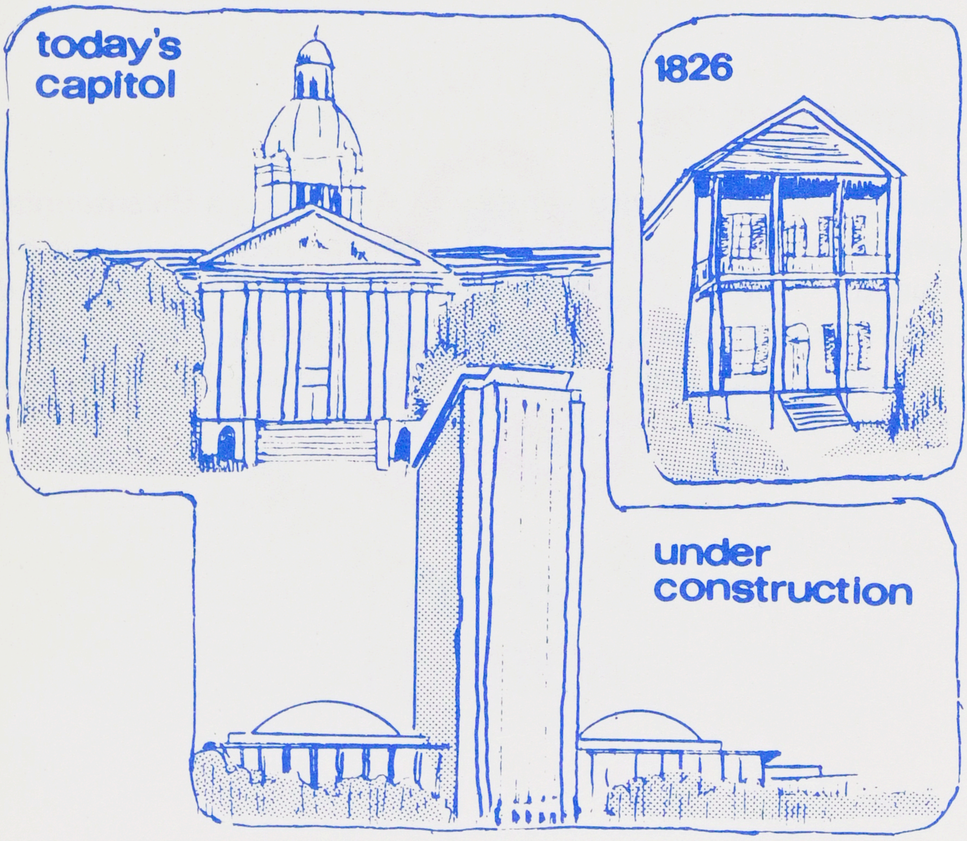
When the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, Florida had already celebrated its own bicentennial. Now our state joins the national commemoration of 200 years of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Bicentennial Commission is a state agency responsible for conducting Florida's celebration of the nation's Bicentennial. Its 28 members include government officials, legislators, and interested private citizens appointed to the Commission by the Governor. Since its creation in 1970, the Commission has developed and implemented a program that emphasizes enduring projects in local communities.

Working with the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA) to "forge a new national commitment, a new spirit of '76," the Bicentennial Commission has encouraged participation in this observance by every Floridian, as an individual or member of an organization.

The success of these efforts is visible in the thousands of projects sponsored throughout the state to recall our American heritage and lay the foundation for our future.

The Commission office, located in Tallahassee, employs a full time staff to assist Floridians in their Bicentennial programs. The Commission will continue to meet bimonthly throughout 1976, closing its headquarters in June, 1977.



BICENTENNIAL THEMES

Most Bicentennial celebrations in Florida are organized around three national themes developed by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration -- Heritage '76, Festival USA, and Horizons '76.

HERITAGE '76

In recalling our history, we look not only to the American Revolution, but to our state's 450 year legacy of explorers, Indians, settlers, and modern patriots. The Bicentennial provides an opportunity to rediscover our origins by commemorating the events that made our country what it is. Floridians are preserving their heritage in Bicentennial publications, museums, films, pioneer villages and historical research.

FESTIVAL USA

Bicentennial festivities of every kind bring people together to share the American experience. Whether it is the traditional Fourth of July picnic, a folk festival, athletic event, parade, musical extravaganza, or crafts show, the Bicentennial is a gala affair in Florida.

HORIZONS '76

Building a better third century in America is a Bicentennial goal of highest priority. Conferences on energy, seminars on human behavior, environmental study centers, and neighborhood cleanup campaigns help achieve that goal by improving the quality of life in the community, state, and nation.

ACTION '76

Through its Action '76 community participation program, the Bicentennial Commission encourages all Floridians to join the celebration.

Action '76 Committees in each county are responsible for planning and coordinating local Bicentennial activities. They set goals for the community and determine the most effective way to achieve them. State funds for administrative costs were allocated on a matching basis, and many committees have a full time staff to supervise local programs.

Cities, counties, college campuses and military bases with vigorous Bicentennial programs are recognized nationally by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. Florida has more than 125 Official Bicentennial Communities, Campuses, and Military Installations commemorating America's 200th anniversary.

THE BICENTENNIAL SYMBOL

The American Revolution Bicentennial symbol is derived from the stars, stripes, and colors of the United States flag. In the center is a white star surrounded by continuous red, white and blue stripes which form a second star. This double star is symbolic of the two centuries since the American Revolution. Our state uses the national logo with "Florida" beneath it as its symbol rather than an alternate design.

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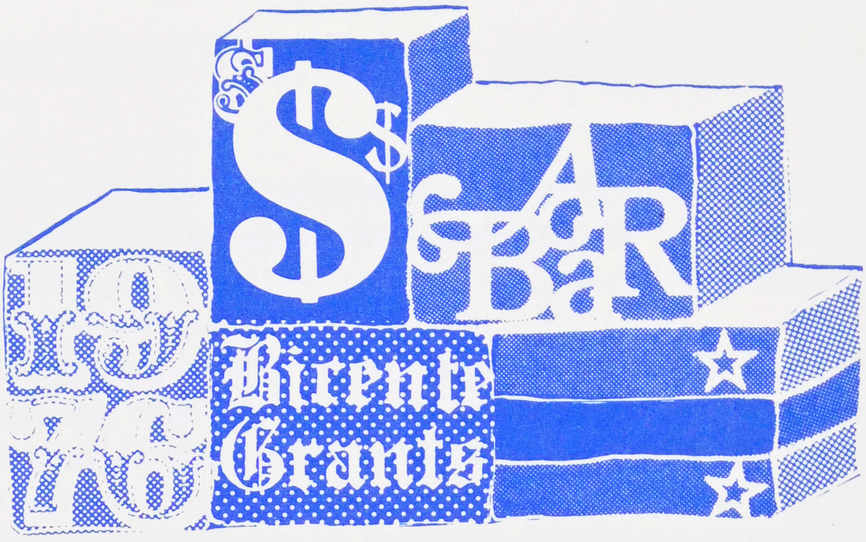


BICENTENNIAL GRANTS

Florida's Bicentennial Commission receives its financial support from pari-mutuel receipts, using no state tax dollars. This stable base has allowed the Commission to award more than $2.5 million in grants since 1971, the second largest amount among the 50 states. Other grants have been awarded by the federal government through ARBA and Title X of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

Action '76 Committees receive most of the grant funds for projects of every size and description. Some, such as Heritage projects, are those one might expect in a Bicentennial commemoration. They include restoration of historic sites such as the Rainey House in Apalachicola and courthouses in Wakulla and Bradford Counties, research and publication of local histories in Baker and Columbia Counties, archaeological excavations, and renovation of the Chatauqua House in DeFuniak Springs and Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge in Martin County.

Projects in the Festival and Horizons themes, however, often lean toward the unusual and unexpected. A Bicentennial grant helped send 80 retarded and handicapped Floridians to the Special Olympics in Michigan. Another grant established a training center in Boca Raton to teach youngsters bicycle safety in simulated traffic patterns. The Seminole Indian Tribe is refurbishing its village near Hollywood, while a Black Floridian Archive Center is being established at Florida A&M University. Free Bicentennial symphony performances along Florida's coastline by an orchestra on a floating barge were made possible by grants, as was the agriculture/civic center in Hardee County and the "East Florida Rangers Fife and Drum Corps" which performs regularly in St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city.

STATE PROJECTS

Some Bicentennial activities with statewide impact have been directly sponsored and implemented by the Commission. A three trailer Traveling Exhibit is touring the state to present a lively look at Florida's past, present, and future.

"Wagon Ho!" is the call of the Bicentennial Wagon Train Pilgrimage to Pennsylvania which will travel from Polk City, Florida, to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Authentic replicas of Conestogas and Prairie Schooners will be drawn by horses over old trails and small roads as part of this national retracing of the country's expansion.

The Commission sponsored the publication of 25 rare, out of print books on Florida's history in its Facsimile Series. It also sponsored the research and publication of *Florida in the American Revolution* by historian J. Leitch Wright. These publications are available through the University Presses in Gainesville.

At the initiation of the Commission, Florida's schools will celebrate a "Bicentennial Festival Week" April 4 - 10, 1976. School activities for the Bicentennial year will climax this week in both private and public schools.

The Commission, guided by an advisory task force, is also conducting a campaign to inform potential travelers to Florida about the state's rich history and varied Bicentennial activities. Brochures, posters, television announcements and a feature film are distributed by the Commission in other states and overseas.

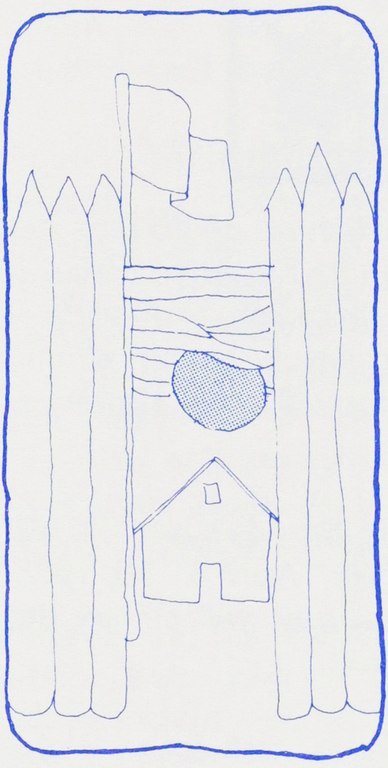
Another film, "Florida on My Mind," was produced by the Commission to inform Floridians of Bicentennial activities and to encourage broader participation in the celebration. Narrated by actor Leif Erickson, the film is available on loan through Action '76 Committees.

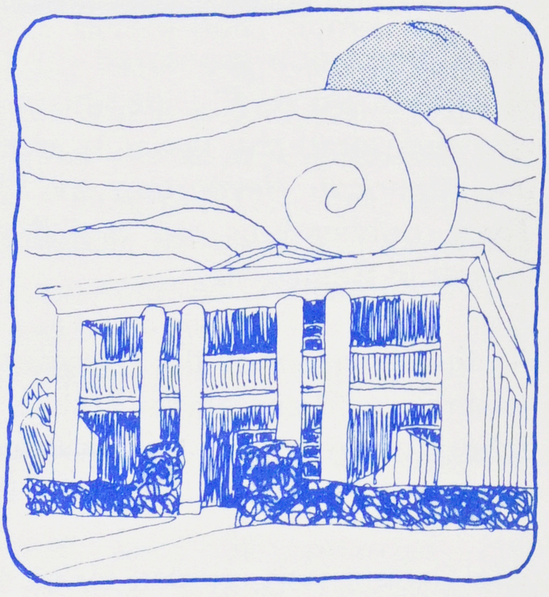
FLORIDA BICENTENNIAL TRAIL

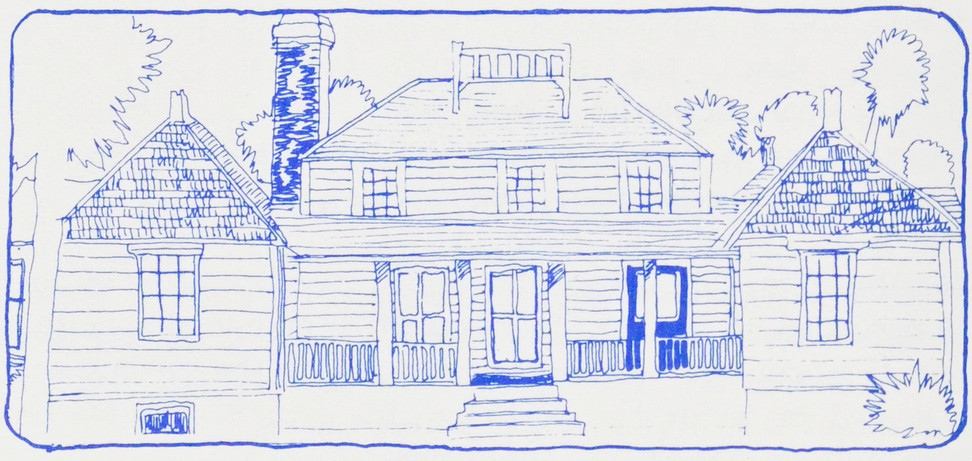
The Florida Bicentennial Trail is an adventure in history. It features 52 sites representing the state's 450 year history. Beginning with Indian mounds at Fort Walton Beach and ending at the Kennedy Space Center on Cape Canaveral, the Trail tells the story of Florida in relation to the birth and development of the nation.

Visitors can share the Florida experience on the Bicentennial Trail. Many sites are directly related to significant historical events or persons contributing to those events, while other sites, with their restored and reconstructed buildings, offer tangible and meaningful evidence of Florida's history, cultural traits, and traditions.

All Trail sites are marked with signs and Bicentennial flags and a guidebook is available to interpret the Trail.







BICENTENNIAL TRAIL SITES

1. Fort Walton Temple Mound
2. Crystal River Mounds
3. DeSoto Memorial
4. Fort Caroline
5. Historic St. Augustine
6. Castillo de San Marcos
7. Spanish Treasure Salvage Site
8. Historic Pensacola
9. Fort George
10. Kingsley Plantation
11. Fort San Marcos de Apalachee
12. Fort Gadsden
13. Tallahassee Seat of Government
14. Historic Tallahassee
15. Historic Key West
16 Cape Florida Lighthouse
17. Apalachicola
18. Dade Battlefield
19. Bulow Plantation Ruins
20. Fort Foster
21. Constitution Convention Site
22. Cedar Key
23. Historic Fernandina
24. Gamble Mansion
25. Stephen Foster Memorial
26. Land Grant College
27. East Martello Tower
28. Fort Clinch
29. Fort Pickens
30. Olustee Battlefield
31. Joseph E. Lee Memorial Center
32. Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge
33. Lake Kissimmee Cow Camp
34. Forest Capital Museum
35. Tampa Bay Hotel
36. Longwood Village Complex
37. Whitehall
38. Mary Bethune Home
39. Vizcaya
40. Koreshan Unity House
41. Edison Estate
42. Florida Pioneer Museum
43. Historic Ybor City
44. Tarpon Springs
45. Everglades Reclamation Site
46. Okalee Indian Village
47. St. Petersburg
48. Ringling Museum of the Circus
49. Highlands Hammock CCC Project
50. Everglades National Park
51. Naval Aviation Museum
52. Kennedy Space Center

PUBLICATIONS

"Florida '76 Today," the Commission's monthly newsletter, features reports on state and local Bicentennial activities. It is mailed regularly to Commissioners, government officials, Action '76 Committees, local Bicentennial organizations, and interested individuals upon request.

A comprehensive list of community projects in the state is published quarterly and all Bicentennial events are included in the Florida Department of Commerce's quarterly events brochure and annual festivals and events calendar. Florida's Bicentennial events are also listed in the ARBA Comprehensive Calendar.

News releases on Bicentennial events are issued regularly to the media, and the Commission distributes journalist Bert Collier's historical series on Florida to 50 newspapers through the courtesy of the Gainesville Sun and Lakeland Ledger.

GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION

A number of state agencies have projects to commemorate the Bicentennial. "Grandma's Recipes," a cookbook printed and distributed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, contains recipes from colonial America featuring Florida foods. The Department of Education published a special Bicentennial edition of "Florida Schools," a magazine for teachers.

The Department of Transporation chose a Bicentennial theme for its 1975 and 1976 official road maps which include information on historical sites and illustrations from Florida's past. The state's Talking Book Library is transcribing Bicentennial publications, including the Floridiana Facsimile Series, on tape for the blind.

COMMEMORATIVES

The Bicentennial Commission has authorized the production of several commemorative items from which the Commission receives royalties to fund projects in the state.

GOVERNOR'S MEDALLIONS

Official Governor's Bicentennial Medallions, a series of three medallions produced in 1974, 1975, 1976, are available in sterling silver, bronze and a limited gold edition. Designs were selected in state-wide competition among high school students, with winners receiving a total of $7,500 in scholarships from the Lincoln Mint of Chicago.

Another Bicentennial Medallion, created in 1972 by the Franklin Mint, features a conquistador gazing at the stars. Originally available individually and in 50-state sets, the Commission's supply has been exhausted.

BORN OF THE SUN

A commemorative journal with a cosmopolitan look at Florida's history, *Born of the Sun,* includes beautiful photographs, historical drawings and contributions from authors like Marjorie Stoneman Douglas and Frank Slaughter. The book is available from Action '76 Committees and retail stores throughout the state.

BICENTENNIAL FLAGS

Florida's Bicentennial flag features red crossed bars on a white field with the Bicentennial logo in the center. Made of cotton and 4 feet by 6 feet in size, the flags may be ordered from the Commission office for $15 each, payable in advance by check or money order.

ARMETALE

Plates and tankards of Armetale, a metal alloy, carry the Bicentennial symbol and are sold by Action '76 Committees and retail stores. They are manufactured by Wilton Brass Company of Pennsylvania.

HISTORICAL CALENDAR

A unique calendar containing daily descriptions of events in Florida history has been endorsed by the Commission. This historical calendar bears the state's logo and is published by Commemorations Press of Jacksonville.

LOCAL PROJECTS

The Bicentennial Commission encourages local celebrations in Florida rather than a multitude of state-wide activities. Community support for thousands of projects has made our Bicentennial commemoration successful.

Heritage '76 projects are prominent in many Bicentennial programs. In Pensacola, the Tivoli Highhouse, built in 1803, was reconstructed on the original site. Pinellas County is creating a historical park in Clearwater, and Bay and Brevard Counties are erecting pioneer villages. *More Than a Memory,* a collection of local memorabilia from the past century, will be published in Orange County. Santa Rosa County in Florida's Panhandle is converting the old L & N Railroad into a museum.

Other activities include restoration of the old courthouse in Manatee County and the Davis house near Quincy, inter-disciplinary courses on American culture at Santa Fe Community College, and publication of local histories in Citrus, Jefferson, and Sarasota Counties.

The oldest schoolhouse in Okeechobee County will become a museum and Clay County is publishing a Bicentennial cookbook. The Jacksonville Children's Museum features an exhibit called "The River, the Road, and the Revolution."

Patriotic holidays take on extra significance during the Bicentennial, and Charlotte County plans a special Flag Day observance. Sanford celebrates with Pioneer Days, and Boy Scouts retrace the Kings Road from Nassau and Volusia Counties, meeting in St. Augustine. Polk County's Traveling Medicine Show entertains children from nine to ninety at Bicentennial events, while Washington County's Young American Dream sings of love for their country to audiences throughout the state.

Rodeos in Osceola and DeSoto Counties feature a star spangled round-up. In Levy County, fire hydrants are getting fresh coats of red, white, and blue paint, and American flags fly from buildings in Suwannee and Union Counties.

The University of South Florida is dedicating its new library to the Bicentennial while Pasco County will bring library services to its retired citizens via bookmobiles. Lee County's Action '76 Committee acquired land valued at $1 million for a civic center, and the Holmes County Bicentennial Association is sponsoring Vietnamese refugees.

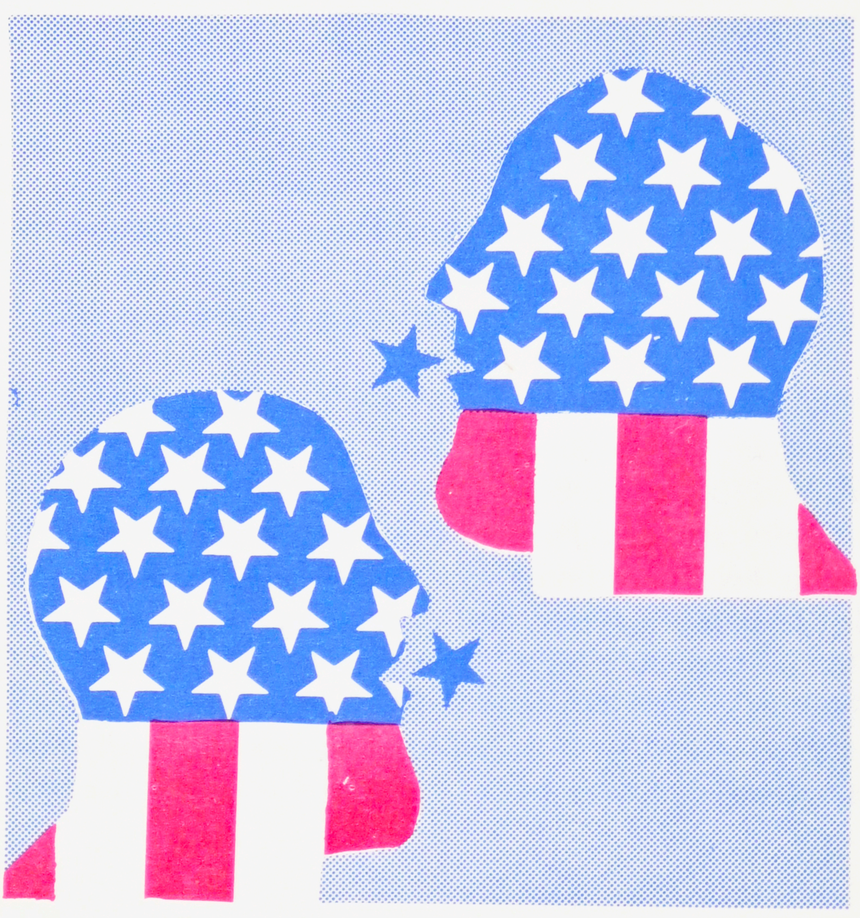
Marathon's new recreation center is also symbolic of plans to improve the quality of life, and the Town Meeting project in Broward County will acquaint residents with community services. Putnam County formed a Youth Task Force to help coordinate local Bicentennial activities, and Little League facilities are expanding in Lake County. Hernando County hopes to register 100 per cent of its eligible voters in 1976, and Third Century in Miami opened the nation's newest educational marine museum, Planet Ocean.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

Floridians can view Bicentennial exhibits of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force in the Armed Forces Caravan, traveling through the state in January and March, 1976. Four large trailers, each housing the exhibits of one branch of the Armed Forces, comprise this free Bicentennial attraction.

The American Issues Forum, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, offers Floridians a chance to study and discuss the fundamental issues underlying our nation's birth and growth. Calendars and other literature are available to clubs, associations and other groups interested in organizing discussions.

Several national programs offer opportunities for young Floridians to participate in the Bicentennial celebration and share their ideas with others. The Junior Committees of Correspondence, sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service, enable school children to exchange Bicentennial messages and information across the country. The Bicentennial Youth Debates, a series of debate competitions, is underway, offering prizes and cash awards for successful orators at the high school and college level. "Youth for Understanding" is sponsoring a Bicentennial contest and sending the winners overseas in a cultural exchange program. "Johnny Horizons" encourages and stimulates citizen cleanups, beautifications, recycling, and conservation and environmental efforts.



BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

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Lieutenant Governor J. H. "Jim" Williams, *Chairman*
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Ted Randell
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**Deceased*

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